

What is Claimed is:

1 1. An incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises:
2 a sticker that is issued to mailers that is placed on mail to identify
3 the mailer to whom the sticker was issued;
4 a receptacle that reads and stores the identifying information
5 contained in the sticker before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle; and
6 a data center that receives information contained in the sticker and
7 the receptacle to determine if the mailer is permitted to enter mail into the interior
8 of the receptacle.

1 2. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the sticker comprises:
2 a label that has a code that uniquely identifies the person that was
3 issued the label.

1 3. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the sticker comprises:
2 a label that has a code that uniquely identifies the entity that was
3 issued the label.

1 4. The system claimed in claim 3, wherein the label contains a area in
2 which a postage stamp may be affixed.

1 5. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the sticker comprises:
2 a stamp that has a code that uniquely identifies the stamp.

1 6. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle further
2 comprises:
3 a scanner that reads the sticker.

1 7. The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the scanner captures and
2 interprets the information contained in the sticker.

1 8. The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the scanner is located in a
2 control chamber.

1 9. The system claimed in claim 8, wherein the control chamber has a
2 locked door for isolating suspect mail.

1 10. The system claimed in claim 9, wherein the interior of the
2 receptacle comprises:
3 an inner chamber that receives mail from the control chamber that
4 is not suspected of having life-harming material.

1 11. The system claimed in claim 10, wherein the inner chamber has a
2 locked door in which when open mail may be removed from the inner chamber.

1 12. The system claimed in claim 8, further including:
2 a slot for depositing mail into the control chamber.

1 13. The system claimed in claim 12, further including:
2 means for closing the slot when the mail in the control chamber is
3 suspected of containing life-harming substances.

1 14. The system claimed in claim 12, further comprising means for
2 indicating a message indicating the status of the receptacle.

1 15. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the data center correlates
2 recipient address of the mail with information contained in the sticker.

1 16. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle further
2 comprises:
3 means for noting time and date that the mail was deposited in the
4 receptacle.

1 17. The system claimed in claim 15, wherein the receptacles further
2 comprises:
3 means for noting location of the receptacle.